

itself in at least three forms: undercounts (failure to correctly record a choice of candidate), overcounts (voting for two candidates), and missed ballots (machine failure or feeding error). Punch cards and optically scanned ballots are two of the most widely used technologies, and both suffer unacceptably high error rates in all three categories. For example, in the recent Florida election, optical scanning technology had an undercount rate of approximately 3 out of 1,000, and the punch card undercount rate was approximately 15 out of 1,000. Including the other two sources of errors, the overall ballot failure rate with machine counting was about three times this.

"Second, some of the most common types of machinery date from the late nineteenth century and have become obsolete. Most notably, many models of lever machines are no longer manufactured, and although spare parts are difficult to obtain, they are still widely used (accounting for roughly 15 percent of all ballots cast).

REPLACING LEVER MACHINES

"States and municipalities using lever machines will have to replace them in the near future, and the two most common alternatives are punch cards and optical scanning devices. Ironically, many localities in Massachusetts have recently opted for lever machines over punch card ballots because of problems with punch cards registering preferences."

Asked to comment on the project as scientists, both university presidents noted the convergence of history and technology as being especially promising for the development of a new voting machine. "This is a project we could have tackled any time, but the truly bizarre circumstances of the recent presidential election put it on the front burner. We are also at a technological point where a solution is highly likely," said Dr. Vest. "There are times when events overtake us. This is a good time and a necessary time to be doing this," said Dr. Baltimore.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology have a relationship dating back to 1920 when MIT scientists' helped shape the chemistry and physics departments of the new California Institute of Technology. Dr. Baltimore, a 1975 Nobel laureate, served on the MIT faculty from 1968-90 and 1994-1997, when he was appointed president of Caltech.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS PROCEDURES ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, even at the dawn of the twenty-first century, there are many states and localities that conduct their elections in ways that are outdated, slow, unreliable, inaccurate, and inaccessible to many.

One need not look further than the turmoil surrounding the 2000 Presidential election to see the disparities of our electoral process. For instance, while some counties in Florida have modern voting machines that leave little room for error, others use dated punch-card ballots, that can lead to the now-famous hanging and dimpled chads.

That is why I rise to introduce the "Commission on Elections Procedures Act," which es-

tablishes a bipartisan commission to study the Federal, State, and local electoral process and to make recommendations on the implementation of standardized voting procedures.

The long national nightmare of the 2000 Presidential vote counting has taught us, Republicans and Democrats alike, that we need to improve the instruments of voting and the means of electing our office holders. Even the Supreme Court Justices spoke of the need for uniform voting procedures.

Let me be clear: unlike some legislation that has been introduced in this regard, this is not a federal mandate of election standards. This bill simply calls for a study to determine if standardization is necessary and to recommend what changes can be made to improve our electoral process.

I understand that a rural state like North Dakota has voting problems that are different than those faced by a more urban state like New Jersey. Urban and rural areas have unique difficulties with voting. My legislation recognizes these differences and will work to find a common solution. While all areas could face problems of the cost of transition to a new system, I am confident that money can be found to assist the states in this area.

By establishing a commission to study the issue and to review the unique circumstances of each state, we have a chance to find a solution that will work for everyone.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE VOLUNTEER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on December 5th, I spoke to volunteers and staff at the Peace Corps headquarters here in Washington, D.C. to mark the International Day of the Volunteer. In 1985, the United Nations General Assembly declared December 5th as "International Volunteer Day" to honor the accomplishments of volunteers and volunteer organizations. It is a day to recognize volunteers, promote the concept of volunteerism, and provide an opportunity for volunteer organizations to come together for joint planning, service, and other activities.

Today I'd like to salute the 161,000 Americans who have served as volunteers in the Peace Corps since 1961. For 40 years, Peace Corps Volunteers have worked in over 130 countries to answer President John F. Kennedy's call to service: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country, and to the citizens of the world, ask not what America can do for you, but what we can do working together for the freedom of mankind." Volunteers have answered his call and helped pave the way for progress for countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

This year, Peace Corps Volunteers, Trainees, and Peace Corps staff members will be participating in activities with other local and

international volunteer organizations in their countries to mark this day, which takes on special significance this year as the launch for the United Nations International Year of Volunteers 2001—a world-wide celebration to recognize, support, and promote volunteering. In Lesotho, a Peace Corps volunteer will speak at a ceremony attended by members of the government. In Tanzania, there will be a special swearing-in ceremony of new volunteers. In Moldova, volunteers will raise funds for children's charities. In Washington, Peace Corps staff from headquarters will volunteer at Food and Friends to help deliver meals and groceries to families of people living with HIV/AIDS.

In honor of the International Year of Volunteers 2001, other international volunteer sending organizations such as Australian Volunteers International, Canada World Youth, United Nations Volunteers, and the United Kingdom's Voluntary Services Overseas are joining with the Peace Corps to make a commitment to expand their HIV/AIDS education efforts throughout the world.

Throughout the world, and particularly Africa, HIV/AIDS is having a devastating effect on people of all ages by threatening the future of development and well being of their communities. This year the Peace Corps launched a special initiative to retrain all 2,400 volunteers serving in Africa to become HIV/AIDS prevention educators. In a sign of solidarity and support, the leaders of Australian Volunteers International, Canada World Youth, United Nations Volunteers and the United Kingdom's Voluntary Services Overseas have joined with the Peace Corps in committing the best and most effective strategies to meet the enormous challenge of halting the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Today, I commend the Peace Corps and other volunteer organizations for being committed to spreading the concept of volunteerism. In honor of International Volunteer Day and the International Year of Volunteers 2001, it is my privilege to salute the important work of the Peace Corps and volunteers throughout the world.

FUNDRAISING SOLICITATIONS BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to announce the introduction of legislation that will help clarify the law regarding fund-raising solicitations by nonprofit organizations. I also want to recognize the efforts of my colleagues, House Government Reform Chairman DAN BURTON and House Postal Service Subcommittee Chairman JOHN MCHUGH, for their leadership on postal service issues.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, Congress recognized the many important and worthwhile activities of nonprofits by establishing a nonprofit mail rate for charities, churches, educational, advocacy, and other nonprofit organizations. These are enumerated in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. One of Congress'